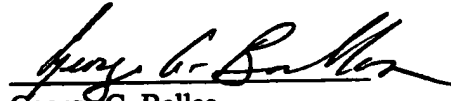


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Application No. 09/765,411
Attorney Docket: Q62798

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

2. The ink cartridge according to claim ~~1~~54, wherein the first outer shell constituent member and the second outer shell constituent member are hermetically coupled together by vibratory welding.

6. The ink cartridge according to claim ~~1~~54, wherein the first outer shell constituent member and the second outer shell constituent member are hermetically coupled together by heat-welding.

11. The ink cartridge according to claim ~~1~~54, wherein a first continuous, closely contactable surface is formed over the entirety of a peripheral edge of a lower case forming the first outer shell constituent member; a second closely contactable surface is formed on a peripheral edge of a cover forming the second outer shell constituent member to be brought into close contact with the first closely contactable surface; and an engagement section removably engaging the peripheral edge of the lower case is formed integrally on the cover, the engagement section maintaining the case and the cover in a sealed state.

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17. (Amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, and a cartridge case ~~hermetically~~ formed for housing the ink pack, wherein, when the ink cartridge is mounted to a recording apparatus, pressurized air is introduced into the cartridge case, the ink cartridge comprising:

first and second cases which constitute the cartridge case, said second case having a circumferential portion;

a flange section formed along an edge of an opening of the first case, wherein said circumferential portion of said second case covers said flange section; and

at least one lug-shaped member which is formed on the second case and engages with the flange section, thereby coupling the first and second cases together, wherein said lug-shaped member protrudes inward from an inner surface of said circumferential portion.

23. The ink cartridge according to any one of claims 18 through 22, wherein ~~a~~ the film member is sealed to the edge of the opening of the first case by heat welding.

43. An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing ~~in~~ ink therein, and a cartridge case ~~hermetically~~ formed for housing the ink pack, wherein, when the ink cartridge is mounted to a recording apparatus, pressurized air is introduced into the cartridge case, the ink cartridge comprising:

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first and second cases which constitute the cartridge case, said second case is formed from a planar section acting as a cover and a fold section formed integral with and perpendicular to the planar section;

at least one lug-shaped member which is formed on the fold section of the second case;
and

at least one slit formed through the second case at a location corresponding to the location of the lug-shaped member, said slit extending in a direction parallel to the fold section.

47. An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus which supplies ink to a recording head by application of pressurized air produced by an air pressurization pump, the ink cartridge comprising:

an outer shell member constructed at least by a case and a heat-welding film ~~first outer shell constituent member and a second outer shell constituent member that are hermetically coupled together;~~

an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, the ink pack being housed within the outer shell; and

a pressure chamber defined between the outer shell member and the ink pack and adapted to receive the pressurized air produced by the air pressurization pump;

~~wherein the second outer shell constituent member is a heat-welding film.~~

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48. The ink cartridge according to claim ~~14~~7, wherein the case and the heat-welding film ~~first outer shell constituent member and the second outer shell constituent member~~ are hermetically ~~coupled~~ sealed together by heat-welding.

49. The ink cartridge according to claim 48, wherein a continuous, substantially planar weld surface is formed over the entirety of a peripheral edge of ~~the case~~ a lower case ~~forming the first outer shell constituent member~~, and said heat-welding film ~~forming the second outer shell constituent member~~ is thermally welded to the weld surface.

51. The ink cartridge according to claim 50, wherein an engagement section removably engaging the peripheral edge of the ~~lower case~~ is formed integrally on a peripheral edge of the reinforcement member.

52. The ink cartridge according to any one of claims 48 through 51, wherein reinforcement ribs are formed on the surface of the ~~case~~ first outer shell constituent member, the surface at least partially defining the pressure chamber.

53. The ink cartridge according to claim 47, further comprising a cover coupled to the case to cover said film, wherein ~~a first continuous, closely contactable surface is formed over the entirety of a peripheral edge of a lower case forming the first outer shell constituent member; a second closely contactable surface is formed on a peripheral edge of a cover forming the second~~

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~~outer shell constituent member to be brought into close contact with the first closely contactable surface; and an engagement section removably engaging the a peripheral edge of the lower case is formed integrally on the cover, the engagement section maintaining the case and the cover in a sealed state.~~

Claim 54 is added as a new claim.